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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Letter dated 4 January 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Government of Burkina Faso on the measures taken in implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 January 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Resolution 1540 (2004), adopted by the Security Council at its 4956th meeting, on 28 April 2004, states that nuclear, chemical and biological weapons constitute a threat to international peace and security.

United Nations recommendations on the implementation of measures to prevent the proliferation of such weapons are an appeal to every Member State for total commitment to that goal.

As with all other United Nations resolutions and recommendations, Burkina Faso proclaims its willingness to work towards the implementation of this resolution. Burkina Faso is neither a producer nor an exporter of that type of weapon.

It does, however, import chemicals used for peaceful purposes in industry and the construction sector. Although these products are intended for peaceful uses, they may be dangerous if misused.

Aware of the need for effective controls on imports of chemicals, the Burkina Faso authorities have established a National Authority for the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (ANCAC). This Authority is led by a Technical Secretariat comprising the following Ministries: Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research, Defence, Health, Economy and Development, and Foreign Affairs. A draft law to implement the Convention is currently before the Technical Committee for the Validation of Legislation and is on its way to adoption by the National Assembly. This draft includes sections on the prohibition of chemical weapons, controls on certain products, domestic and international investigation and administrative and criminal penalties.

In order to improve their awareness of the terms of the Convention and bring about rapid adoption of the related national legislation, the Government has undertaken efforts to promote awareness among parliamentarians.

It should be noted that Burkina Faso is a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Additional Protocol of 1977, and other conventions of a humanitarian nature.

Burkina Faso is open to any form of cooperation which may contribute to improved implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The safety of the entire planet is at stake.